

Rainfall floods roads, kills 3 in Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — Heavy rains have flooded roads and homes in Israel and were blamed for the deaths of three teenagers whose car was swept away in the flooding, police said Saturday. Searchers found the bodies of the teenagers along the Sorek River near Rehovot, about 25 kilometres south of Tel Aviv. Flood waters carried their car away after it got stuck on a bridge early Saturday, Israel Radio said. The Yarkon River, which flows through Tel Aviv, crested in three spots causing heavy flooding in some areas, the radio said. In the Haifa bay area, some 90 kilometres north of Tel Aviv, some families were evacuated from flooded homes, Israel Radio said. Power lines were down and some walls had collapsed, but no injuries were reported. It was the second time this winter that heavy rains caused flooding along Israel's lowlands. Ironically, this arid land has suffered a water log summer. Earlier this month, seven days of torrential rains blocked major highways and caused the death of two Israeli soldiers and two Arabs.

Volume 16 Number 4892

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جordan Times يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية العربية (الرائدة)

AMMAN SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1991, JUMADEH AL AKHRA 23, 1412

Floods hit Lebanon; at least 1 killed

BEIRUT (AP) — Floods caused by torrential rains rushed through the streets Saturday as water and heavy winds knocked down power cables and disrupted communications across the country. Police said at least one person was killed — a coffee vendor drowned after his caravan overlooking the sea was swept away by waves battering the coast in the worst winter storm since 1987. Several rivers in the north and south were also flooded by week-long rains. Police said uprooted power poles caused a total blackout in Beirut and several mountain regions. All roads above 900 metres were blocked by snow. Authorities Friday night rescued 2,000 people trapped on the mountain road linking Beirut to the central Beka Valley. The floods isolated dozens of villages. At least three bridges on the main Beirut-Damascus highway east of the capital were closed. Radios blared police and civil defence warnings to avoid damaged roads, especially in mountainous areas where the rains were heavier.

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Syria recognises ex-Soviet republics

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria recognised Saturday Russia and the other 10 former Soviet republics which have agreed to form the commonwealth of independent states. A Foreign Ministry statement said Syria was also establishing diplomatic and consular relations with the 11 newly independent states. The other 10 states are Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. Only Georgia has not agreed to join the new commonwealth. The ministry said Syria's embassy in Moscow would serve as embassy to Russia and at the same time represent Syria in the other states until new embassies are opened there.

Angry crowd blocks St. Petersburg street

MOSCOW (AP) — An angry crowd of about 200 people blocked the main street of St. Petersburg after they failed to get their share of sausage at a nearby shop, a news agency reported. In the southern city of Rostov-on-Don, 16 people were gravely injured, including four who suffered severe skull and brain damage, when heavy snow and ice fell from a roof on a crowd of customers waiting for vodka, Rabochaya Tribune reported. The newspaper did not say when the incident took place. The Russian Information Agency said that police on Nevsky Prospekt, a wide boulevard in the centre of former Leningrad, stood by as people shouted angrily against the policies of the Russian government. Moscow and St. Petersburg have been among the Russian cities hardest hit by food shortages as agricultural regions and other former Soviet republics keep their produce for themselves.

Bahrain releases detained professor

BAHRAIN (R) — A Bahraini professor detained on Dec. 14 for criticising the Gulf ruling families was released on bail Saturday, relatives said. Sheikh Abdul Laif Al Mahmood, associate professor of Islamic Studies at Bahrain University, was held at Bahrain airport on his return from Kuwait. He had told a seminar in Kuwait that Gulf ruling families did not deserve their privileges and should not be free to use their countries' wealth as they chose. Official sources said he was detained because his speech "was contrary to the laws of the land, which require people to be respectful to the heads of state in the area." Prof. Mahmood was one of several professors from Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries who criticised the 10-year-old alliance for failing to achieve progress at the seminar.

Kabul rally disrupted

KABUL (R) — A rare rally in the Afghan capital by supporters of the former King Zahir Shah was disrupted by a rival group Saturday, as government security forces watched without intervening, witnesses said. The rally, organised by New York-based Afghan businessman Zia Khan Nasri, was the second in Kabul in favour of the former king during the 13-year Afghan civil war. The first such rally on Nov. 13 was broken up by plainclothes officers of the Khad state security police.

Britain urges end to Somali violence

LONDON (R) — Britain called on Saturday for a ceasefire between the warring clans of Mogadishu to end what the United Nations has called a nightmare of violence in Somalia. "The British government is deeply concerned at the continued fighting in the Somali capital," Overseas Aid Minister Lynda Chalker said in a statement. A United Nations report on Friday said as many as 20,000 people — mostly women and children — have been killed or wounded in a month of ethnic fighting in the Somali capital. U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar Friday called Mogadishu a "nightmare of violence" and said a team of U.N. aid workers was being sent into the city.

Islamists set to control Algerian parliament

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Muslim fundamentalists are in position to gain control of parliament after taking an overwhelming lead in Algeria's first free legislative elections and gathering momentum for a second-round ballot.

They are also pressing for early presidential elections.

With results for 206 of the 430 seats, the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) had won outright victories in 167 races, leaving it 49 seats short of an absolute majority even before the Jan. 16 runoff vote.

Officials have three days to reveal results from Thursday's vote, but there was no word on final tallies would be announced.

Impact on life in Algeria from the stunning political turn was not immediately clear. The fundamentalists won support with a simple slogan: "No constitution and no laws. The only rule is the Koran and the law of God."

Some clerics speaking at Friday prayers called for Algerians to change their secular ways. Other spoke of tolerance and power sharing.

Provisional FIS leader Abdul Kader Hachani, asked whether the FIS could fail to take control of the next parliament, told a news conference Friday night it was "a probability which is absolutely ruled out."

"We shall demand presidential elections in order to stop parliament's prerogatives being curtailed," he added.

Earlier this week, the FIS called for presidential elections immediately after the second round of parliamentary voting.

President Chadli Benjedid, elected in 1988 for a third consecutive five-year term, has promised presidential elections before 1993 but he has not set a date.

The early results seemed to

spell the end of Algeria's days as a secular state which kept religion and politics apart.

The size of the FIS victory appeared to stun all but the Islamists, who immediately called on their opponents to repent.

Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali blamed the Islamists' election success on small democratic parties which had split the vote away from the old ruling party, the National Liberation Front (FLN).

"It's a loss for all the democratic parties. But that can be corrected if these parties get a grasp of things, if they realise that is really at stake," Mr. Ghazali told French television.

The official figures, for seats where one candidate won an absolute majority, were given by Interior Minister Larbi Belkhir, who said the FLN was trailing in third place with 16 seats, behind the Socialist Forces Front with 20.

The prospect tens of thousands of Algerians fleeing harsh Islamic rule for a better life in Europe sent shudders Saturday across the Mediterranean in France.

Political groups and media warned that the FIS victory could spark a wave of unwanted immigration.

President Francois Mitterrand's government was silent, presumably waiting to see how the second round plays out.

But Michel Vauzelle, a leading politician of the governing Socialist Party, said that France could not turn its back on the sprawling country it ruled from 1830 until 1962.

"We have to see, once this party is in power, how it behaves," he said in an interview on Radio Monte Carlo.

A wave of immigrants would come at a bad time. Economic

embarking in Marseille."

The reactions showed that, 29 years after Algerian nationalists expelled the French in a bloody eight-year war for liberation, relations between the two countries are tightly intertwined.

France is Algeria's largest trading partner, and French is widely spoken there. A law passed in Algiers this year making Arabic the sole official language brought protests from Paris.

An estimated 700,000 Algerians live in France, part of a community of Muslim immigrants numbering 3.5 billion. Their integration is the secular country's most explosive social issue.

The extreme-right National Front, which vows to expel foreigners from the country, plays on French fears that the country is being invaded by foreigners.

The front regularly scores 15 per cent in public opinion surveys. Other parties, even the governing Socialists, have vowed tougher immigration policies to blunt its appeal.

Bruno Megret, the National Front's number-two leader, said that the Algerian vote "is laden with threat and shows once more that the national front is right about immigration."

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(Continued on page 5)

Jordan's Islamic movement jubilant

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's Islamic movement, particularly the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood, is jubilant over the sweeping victory that Islamists secured in the Algerian general elections and sees it as a forerunner of the emergence of the power of Islam through the ballot in the Arab World.

"No doubt the news of the victory of the Islamists in Algiers and the advances of the Islamic (Salvation) Front (FIS) is very positive and makes us very happy," said Sheikh Abdul Rahman Al Khalifeh, spiritual leader of the Brotherhood in Jordan.

The FIS, which challenged the traditionally dominant National Liberation Front (FLN) in last Thursday's elections, bagged 167 of the 206 seats where outright majority winners were declared Friday.

Winners of the rest of the seats in the 430-strong assembly will be determined in a second round next month, pitting the two leading candidates in the first round (see separate story).

"The Algerian government deserves gratitude for organising free and democratic elections that led to this happy result, which heartened all Muslims," Sheikh Khalifeh told the Jordan Times.

According to Sheikh Khalifeh, who guides the Brotherhood which won 22 seats in Jordan's first multi-party elections in 22 years in November 1989, the Islamic movement supports "democratic and free elections in all Arab countries."

We are also very happy that (the Islamic movement) has reached the level of government after putting up a strong opposition and managed to secure complete freedom for all the people of Algeria," he added.

(Continued on page 5)

Libya hits renewal of sanctions by Bush

ROME (Agencies) — The Libyan foreign ministry Saturday condemned the renewal of economic sanctions against Libya by the U.S. administration, which asserts Libya's regime still supports "terrorism."

A few days earlier, President George Bush sent the U.S. Congress a letter in which he stated Libya's government still makes use of and supports "international terrorism."

The notice allows the renewal of economic sanctions, including a ban of U.S. business deals with Libya. The sanctions were adopted in January 1986.

Libya's foreign ministry, in a statement carried by the official Libyan news agency JANA, said the sanctions renewal was "further escalation of the arbitrary and tyrannical measures which contradict the principles of international law and the aims of the United Nations."

U.S. judicial authorities have been seeking the extradition of two Libyans accused of planning the 1988 bombing of Pan Am jet over Scotland, but Libya has refused to surrender them.

On Friday, the U.S. turned down an invitation from Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi to send Western judges to Tripoli for the trial of the two men allegedly implicated in the 1988 bombing.

"Libya must surrender for trial all those charged with the crime related to Pan Am 103," State Department spokesman Joe Snyder told a regular briefing.

"The United States and the United Kingdom have jurisdiction in this case. We expect Libya to comply promptly and in full."

This is the position that was set out in a joint U.S.-British statement issued on Nov. 27, Mr. Snyder told reporters when asked if Washington would accept Libya's offer.

Jordan was the first Arab country where the fundamentalists entered the corridors of power through free and fair elections. The Brotherhood joined the government earlier this year but stayed away from participation in a new government in June citing the group's opposition to the Middle East peace process, which the Kingdom has accepted.

Despite its absence in government, the Brotherhood remains a strong political force in Jordan and has a strong say in the various walks of life in the Kingdom.

Observers expected the movement to be buoyed by its counterpart's performance in Algeria and to press its hardline approach in parlia-

ment.

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(Continued on page 5)

Russia committed to Mideast peace, will host multilaterals

Jordan extends recognition to former Soviet republics

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet decided Saturday to recognise Russia and to maintain diplomatic relations with it at the level of embassies. It also decided to make Jordan's embassy in Moscow as the Kingdom's embassy to Russia.

The Cabinet, meeting under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, also approved the recognition of the independence of the other 10 former Soviet republics, which have agreed to form the commonwealth of independent states, in addition to Georgia which has not joined the commonwealth.

The Cabinet approved the appointment of Mohammad Souqour as secretary general of the Ministry of Social Development and approved several recommendations by the Investment Encouragement Committee. The Council of Ministers also approved setting up a committee which will carry out the duties of Mahez Municipal Council, which resigned recently, until municipal elections are held.

(Continued on page 2)

Yeltsin consolidates grip on military, pushes reform campaign

MOSCOW (AP) — Boris Yeltsin roared ahead with reform Saturday, issuing an order to privatise state land, but his seizure of military hardware drew a warning from Ukraine. Fighting stopped in Georgia and escalated in Nagorno-Karabakh, where Russia had been resolved and he also would move to the Kremlin.

Details emerging on documents signed by defence ministers of the new commonwealth reveal that the demand of Ukraine, Moldova and Azerbaijan on forming their own armies was a major obstacle to forming a united armed forces.

Differences in economic, defence and foreign policy have troubled the new commonwealth of independent states in the week following its proclamation and four days after Mikhail Gorbachev resigned as Soviet president.

Mr. Yeltsin already has moved into Gorbachev's Kremlin offices, and on Saturday he mended fences with his vice president.

The decree followed an order

on privatising state enterprises and shops. Another key element of Mr. Yeltsin's economic reform plan.

The Interfax news agency, quoting unidentified sources close to Mr. Yeltsin, said his differences with Mr. Yeltsin had been resolved and he also would move to the Kremlin.

The decree introducing private land ownership allows for the transfer of collective and state farms to private hands before the critical spring planting.

State and collective and state farms will receive land without charge based on the number of their members, but they will be required to reorganise as holding companies or cooperatives, the decree said, according to the Russian Information Agency.

The rest of the land will be placed in a land fund and sold on a competitive basis to anyone, but there will be a limit on how much can be purchased, the agency said.

Ukraine and Belarus fear Russians will come and strip their

(Continued on page 2)

Bank governor warns Knesset against raising deficit

TEL AVIV (R) — The governor of Israel's central bank, ahead of a parliamentary budget vote under close scrutiny in Washington, warned legislators against adding to the budget deficit recently.

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Islamic success in Algeria to send shockwaves through region

By John Baggaley
Reuters

ALGIERS — Signs of a fundamentalist landslide in Algeria's general election are bound to send shockwaves through other North African countries, southern Europe and wherever Muslim rulers do not base their legitimacy on an appeal to Islamic militancy.

The first results show the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) winning more than 80 per cent of the 206 seats so far decided in the 430-member parliament.

Seats where there is no outright winner will be decided on Jan. 16 in run-offs between the two leading candidates.

The vote for the FIS, whose top leaders have been in jail since June, far outstripped predictions and marked an extraordinary turnaround for a movement which some said had lost its way since winning local elections in 1990.

The front, led temporarily by Abdal Kader Hachani, waited until Dec. 14, nine days into campaigning, before deciding against boycotting the election on Thursday.

One government minister recently told Western diplomats he

expected FIS to win 30 per cent of the seats in parliament. Diplomats said no party would win an absolute majority.

The result suggests the election was one of the fairest ever in the Arab World, the area of the world where democratic principles have had the most trouble taking root.

Sudan had free and fair elections in 1986 but the government which emerged lost power to a military junta three years later.

Jordan, Egypt and Yemen have liberalised their electoral systems. In Jordan, the most liberal, candidates stood as independents, not as members of political parties.

The Muslim Brotherhood, the most traditional of the Arab World's fundamentalist movements, scored well in Jordan and now has a say in making and breaking governments.

But the Algerian case marks the first time an Islamic movement has a good chance of taking power in the Arab World through democratic elections.

The repercussions will be felt most in neighbouring Tunisia and Morocco, where fundamentalists are working underground against

the political systems inherited from colonial rulers.

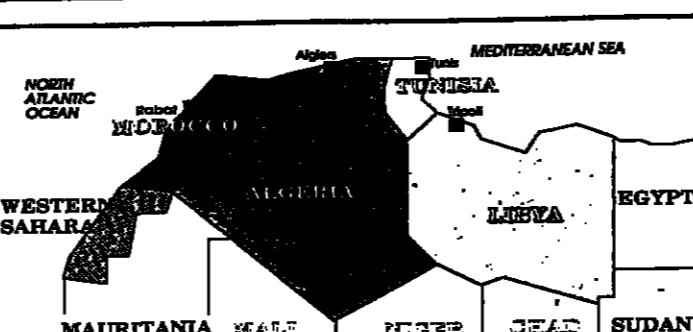
In Tunisia, President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali has followed in the footsteps of his predecessor, Habib Bourguiba, who used the law to crush the challenge from the Islamic Tendency Movement (MTI).

Mr. Ben Ali, who came to power in 1987, at first played with the idea of legalising the MTI's successor, the fundamentalist Nahdha (Renaissance) movement, but he later closed down its newspaper and detained hundreds of members.

Nahdha leader Rachid Ghannouchi, who chose exile before the crackdown on his movement, has been a frequent visitor to Algiers and has good contacts with the FIS leadership.

The main fundamentalist opposition movement in Morocco, known as Adl Wal Ihsan (Justice and Charity), was never as powerful as the Nahdha. The government of the conservative monarchy banned the movement in January 1990.

Libya, sharing a long border with Algeria, has its own Muslim fundamentalist underground but little is known of its activities



beyond Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi's occasional references to acts of violence it has committed.

Many Arab governments, with ideologies based on secular Arab nationalism, have justified their suppression of Islamic opponents by saying that parties based on religion are incompatible with multiparty democracy.

French commentators, who watch Maghreb politics closely because of its impact on France's large community of North African immigrants, have also argued that parties which believe in absolute truths can have no place in a system where laws are man-made through a balance between competing interests.

Critics of the FIS inside Algeria have used anti-democratic remarks by its leaders in their campaign against the movement. Ali Belhadj, the imprisoned deputy to FIS President Abassi

Madani, said at Friday prayers last year, "Nationalism and democracy are terms which have no meaning. It is Islam and the Sunna (the tradition of the Prophet) which unite us."

Prominent FIS member Mohammad Houmou told worshippers this Friday that other parties should announce their "repentance" and that people who did not vote for the FIS would go to hell.

After the FIS victory in local elections in 1990, French politicians said the result was troubling on counts.

An eventual FIS government in Algiers might both radicalise the 800,000 Algerians living in France and drive thousands of Algerian moderates to seek exile in Europe, they said.

Spain and Italy, also the targets of economic migration from depressed North Africa, feel the same pressures to a lesser extent.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Shamir expects normal relations with China

TEL AVIV (R) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Friday that he expects Israel will have diplomatic ties with China soon. Mr. Shamir's spokesman said, "He (Mr. Shamir) said he hopes and expects that in the framework of recent developments, relations will be normalised with China in the near future," Ebud Gol told Reuters. Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Yang Fuchang made a confidential visit to Israel last week and met Mr. Shamir and Foreign Minister David Levy. Israel Radio said at the time that China had urged the visit to be kept secret but Mr. Levy disclosed details about it to a parliamentary committee. Defence Minister Moshe Arens secretly visited China in early November, according to an Israeli minister to China, was suppressed by the Israeli military censor. A high-level Israeli trade delegation made an official visit to China immediately after Mr. Arens' trip. The delegation included Dan Shomron, head of Israel military industries and a former army chief of staff. China wants to attend multilateral Middle East peace talks in Moscow at the end of January. Israel is widely reported to have made Chinese participation conditional on normalising relations between the two countries.

The Prince also expressed hope that Russia will maintain the strongest possible ties with Jordan.

The three-colour Russian flag flies over the former Soviet embassy in Amman which has been taken over by the Republic of Russia in the wake of the collapse of the Soviet Union.

The Russian flag was hoisted Friday evening by Ambassador Grigadonov.

In published remarks Saturday, Mr. Grigadonov said that he was assuming the role of ambassador of Russia as well as the new commonwealth of the independent states.

The ambassador said Russia and the new commonwealth will maintain the strongest ties with Jordan and will seek to promote bilateral ties at all levels. He said Russia will continue to promote peaceful coexistence all over the world and will call for solving world disputes, including the Middle East conflict, through peaceful means.

Russia

(Continued from page 1)

ing held at the Royal Court, Petra said. The views of Russia and Jordan are almost similar regarding world issues, fact which served as a basis for cooperation in the past and which would continue in the future, the ambassador said.

The Crown Prince conveyed to the ambassador Jordan's best wishes to the commonwealth of independent states set up by former Soviet Republics and expressed hope that the commonwealth will pursue spearheaded efforts towards achieving a lasting Middle East peace.

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Yeltsin

(Continued from page 1) already bare shop for cheaper goods. They and other republics also worry about a shortage of rubles.

Compounding the economic discord are differences over the new commonwealth's defence and foreign policies, which will be the subject of high-level Monday in Minsk, the capital of Belarus.

Defence ministers of the commonwealth signed documents on military cooperation on Friday, which provides for a joint rather than a unified command hoped for by Marshal Yevgeny Shaposhnikov, the interim head of commonwealth forces.

Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova insisted on forming their own armies, forcing modifications in Marshal Shaposhnikov's concept. Marshal Shaposhnikov said those members entering the joint command will share military financing, but those that do not must pay for their own armed forces.

The commonwealth also has to work out what to do with Soviet military hardware. Russia has taken control over the largest and most sophisticated aircraft carrier. The move drew a protest from Ukraine, where the vessel was stationed before it was transferred to Russia.

Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, who met Friday with commanders of the prestigious Black Sea fleet, said Saturday he was "firmly convinced that Ukraine is and should be a maritime power," TASS reported.

Ms. Kravchuk also said the commonwealth would not play a role in foreign policy. "We do not intend to form any commonwealth structures to speak on behalf on the international scene," TASS reported.

The commonwealth nations have agreed to coordinate their foreign policies, but each member can set its own international course.

Mr. Yeltsin, whose government is the central pillar of the commonwealth, has taken control of most Soviet troops and vowed not to use them in hotspots like the Azerbaijani region of Nagorno-Karabakh and Georgia.

Malnourished children fill Baghdad hospital wards

By Jane Arraf
Reuters

BAGHDAD — "She looks better since I brought her here," said Aziza Duha, holding her emaciated blue, whose feet have turned blue and her hair red from lack of protein.

In the biggest hospital in Saddam City, home to more than one million of Baghdad's poor, doctors try to prevent children dying of hunger in a country rich with oil.

"I was feeding her biscuits and tea," Ms. Duha said this week, sitting on an iron bed in a ward crowded with young, desperate mothers and their motionless infants, who have the distended stomachs and skeletal frames

of the severely malnourished.

Ms. Duha, a 40-year-old mother of five, said her husband was away in the military, leaving them to survive on limited government rations of flour, sugar and other supplies. "He has to spend most of his salary on himself," she said.

"What do you eat at home?" a painfully thin 11-year-old boy, being treated for anaemia, is asked. He looks at the floor. The boy, the youngest of eight children, says in a whisper that his parents buy meat once a month.

A sweeping United Nations trade embargo banning exports and limiting imports since Baghdad's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait has left millions of once well-fed Iraqis

scrambling for food.

An average monthly salary of 150 dinars, worth \$15 at the black market rate used by almost every Iraqi, does not begin to pay for groceries when powdered milk costs 80 dinars a tin.

Although Baghdad is allowed by the U.N. to import food and medicine, it says it has no way to buy supplies while foreign governments continue to freeze billions of dollars in assets.

Throughout Saddam City's Al Qadissiya hospital, black-robed women roam the halls pleading for scarce stocks of medicine for their children.

"Doctor, please," says one woman, crying and clutching the chief paediatrician as she waves a paper with the name

of an antibiotic in limited supply.

One woman, 25-year-old Rasma Hohas, holds the hand of her mildly diabetic seven-year-old daughter. She has not been able to get insulin for days.

Another runs through the corridors wailing and beating her chest in grief after learning that her 32-year-old brother, who has died of tuberculosis, leaving seven children.

His doctor, Imad Arabee, said Ahmad Lufta had no immunity because he had not been able to get regular treatment for a year. He weighed 40 kilos when he died.

The Gulf war, subsequent rebellions in the north and south, and the U.N. sanctions have played havoc with

Iraq's once-efficient health system.

Relief agencies, which are victims of flagging international public interest in Iraq, have not been able to fill the gap.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), which runs one of the biggest medical programmes, has met less than half its target for donations to Iraq.

UNICEF says the death rate for children under five has doubled since before the Gulf war, some from severe forms of malnutrition that had not been seen in Iraq for two decades.

Al Qadissiya's records show that 43 per cent of patients who died in October were victims of malnutrition, compared to 10 per cent in the same month last year.

Israel said planning airlift if trouble in former Soviet Union

BOSTON (R) — Israel is planning a huge airlift of Soviet Jews should another coup or a civil war take place in the former Soviet Union, the Boston Globe has reported.

One Israeli official estimated that 50,000-100,000 Soviet Jews a month could be evacuated, as happened when Ethiopian Jews were brought to Israel earlier this year, the Globe said.

His was the second U.S. body to be returned by captors in a week, with the body of murdered U.S. Marine Corps Lieutenant Colonel William Higgins dumped in Beirut last Sunday.

The family of Buckley plans a quiet graveside service in Arlington National Cemetery, a family friend said on Friday.

The friend, Annmarie Arsenault, said the Buckley family has not yet set a date for the burial.

"They don't want to interfere with the Higgins ceremony," Ms. Arsenault said. Col. Higgins' body arrived back in the United States on Thursday.

Referring to Buckley's sister, Maureen Moroney, Ms. Arsenault said, "She is doing great. She is very pleased his body is going to be returned to the United States. That was a prime concern."

Moroney could not be reached for comment, but a relative at her home in Salem, Massachusetts, said she is being kept informed of developments by U.S. officials.

"I said that Israel is capable of getting more than 50,000 Jews out a month. This doesn't mean we are making preparations. It means that with the direct flights we are ready at any time to bring a large number of Jews to Israel," he said.

Direct flights for Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union to Israel were inaugurated earlier this year. Until then, most of the immigrants reached Israel through Eastern Europe.

Earlier on Friday Mr. Dinitz told a news conference 1.2 million Jews from all 15 republics of the former Soviet Union want to come to Israel and that 105,000 have acquired exit permits.

NEITHER Mr. Dinitz nor Israeli Knesset immigration committee Chairman Michael Kleiner would provide details of the proposed operation, but Mr. Kleiner liked the plan to the airlift of Ethiopian Jews earlier this year, the newspaper reported.

"We can take out between 50,000 and 100,000 a month," Mr. Kleiner said. "Arrangements have been made. We have a plan, and we can rent more planes. We took 15,000 out of Ethiopia in two days, so the sky is the limit."

In Israel, Mr. Dinitz later told Reuters his statements had been misinterpreted.

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getting more than 50,000 Jews out a month. This doesn't mean we are making preparations. It means that with the direct flights we are ready at any time to bring a large number of Jews to Israel," he said.

Direct flights for Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union to Israel were inaugurated earlier this year. Until then, most of the immigrants reached Israel through Eastern Europe.

Earlier on Friday Mr. Dinitz told a news conference 1.2 million Jews from all 15 republics of the former Soviet Union want to come to Israel and that 105,000 have acquired exit permits.

MANAMA, Bahrain (R) — Qatari Crown Prince and Defence Minister Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani Saturday discussed ways of boosting military cooperation with Iran's Defence Minister Akbar Torkan. The Qatari News Agency said the two also reviewed regional and Islamic issues. It gave no further details. Mr. Torkan, on his first visit to the Gulf state, arrived in Doha Saturday, two days after Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) leaders ended a three-day summit in Kuwait. The GCC, an economic and political alliance formed in 1981 soon after the outbreak of the Iraq-Iran war, groups Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates. Iran has been seeking to play a greater role in Gulf affairs. GCC leaders, winding up their first summit since Kuwait was liberated from Iraqi occupation, made only a brief mention of the Islamic republic, welcoming "positive developments" in bilateral relations which they wished to see further improved. Relations between Iran and Arab states, which generally supported Baghdad in its 1980-88 war with Iraq, improved dramatically after Iraq invaded Kuwait last year.

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Low depression to bring more rain and snow

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and the other countries in the eastern Mediterranean region will face yet another low depression on Tuesday, bringing more rain with snow on high mountains, according to the Department of Meteorology.

A department official said Sunday and Monday are expected to witness fair weather with temperatures rising to 11 degrees and then 12 degrees Celsius. But on Tuesday, the country will be affected by a depression with cold polar wind blowing towards Jordan, bringing more rain, hail and probably snow, the official said.

The rain is expected to increase the amounts of rain water which has already been collected behind dams for irrigation in the Jordan Valley.

According to Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) Secretary

TV and radio committee formed to choose programmes

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Broadcasting and Television Corporation (JBTC) has recently formed a special committee grouping experts from both the radio and television stations to select the various programmes to be aired on Radio Jordan and Jordan Television as of January 1992, according to Radi Al Khas, director general of JBTC.

Mr. Al Khas said the committee will ask local, Arab and international companies to send samples of their productions to the committee, which will then select the most suitable ones for airing on Jordan TV and radio.

The corporation will also form monitoring committees which will be entrusted with watching the selected programmes and making their judgement on their suitability for airing. These committees will group experts from outside

the corporation who will be replaced on a periodic basis.

However, those people will be assisted by experts from Radio Jordan and TV. The committees will make recommendations on the suitability or unsuitability of programmes selected, may delete certain scenes or shots — particularly those conflicting with Jordanian traditions and values.

In another step to organise the process of selecting and purchasing TV programmes and series, which will be aired as of Jan. 1, 1992, the corporation also composed a programme procurement committee, headed by the TV director. The committee includes a representative for the Audit Bureau, head of the Financial Section at the corporation, heads of the first and second channels and head of the Control Section.

Man found not guilty of manslaughter but sentenced for using illegal gun

By Ahmad Kreishan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Criminal Court in Amman has sentenced a man who killed another man in self-defence to a three-month jail because he used an unlicensed gun in the course of defending himself.

According to the court verdict, Mahmoud Saleh Hussein Al Abed was found guilty not because he killed a man who had entered his brother's home, but because he killed the thief with a gun for which he had no licence.

The thief, identified as Harb Abdul Jall, had entered the flat by climbing to the roof of a neighbouring building and dropping into the veranda of

the flat. He then forced open its aluminium door, according to the court hearings.

The thief had broken several doors of the flat, which was not inhabited at the time, making a lot of noise and awakening Mr. Abed, the owner's brother, who lived in the lower flat, according to the lawyers for the defendant.

They said that Mr. Jall attacked Mr. Abed with a knife when he was surprised. Mr. Abed shot at the thief in self defence.

The court also ordered the confiscation of the gun but acquitted Mr. Abed from the charge of manslaughter. According to court sources, the case has now been referred to the Court of Cassation for endorsement.

Ministry trying to raise funds for environmental strategy

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment is holding contacts with international organisations to raise funds to finance projects included in the national environment strategy. Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs Abdul Razzaq Tubaishat said Saturday.

The minister made the announcement at a meeting by the Higher Steering Committee for the Implementation of the National Environment Strategy on the Environment due to be held in Brazil in June of 1992.

At the meeting, the national strategy was discussed, with attention focusing on an informational plan to explain to the public the objectives of this strategy. The meeting also discussed coordination between the committee and the various concerned government departments to ensure the implementation of the plan.

Dr. Tubaishat told the meeting that the International Union for the Conservation of Nature

(IUCN) has been informed of Jordan's plans to implement the strategy and was requested to provide assistance to the country and finance this vital scheme, the minister said.

The national strategy has been prepared in cooperation with the IUCN and with financial help from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

According to Dr. Tubaishat, the national strategy will be ready for implementation before convening of the World Conference on the Environment due to be held in Brazil in June of 1992.

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WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Art and ornamentation exhibition by Sabah Hadidi at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Art exhibition by Jumana Al Husseini at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery — 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.

FILM

★ Feature film entitled "Twelve Angry Men" at the American Centre — 7 p.m.

Princess Basma opens education centre

AOABA (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Saturday opened a special education centre affiliated to the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) in Aqaba.

GUVS Executive Board Chairman Abdullah Khatib and Ahmad Sabah, chairman of Al Thaghir Society for the Handicapped, which will supervise the works of the centre, delivered speeches praising Princess Basma's role in the field of voluntary and social work.

Princess Basma also attended the Aqaba Islamic Society's celebration of its 25th anniversary.

The society's chairman, Nasrat Al Beetur, presented Her Royal Highness with the society's shield in appreciation of her efforts in the field of social work.

Princess Basma distributed awards to several of the society's kindergarten and school principals.

University of Jordan to begin awarding bachelors degree in midwifery

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Nursing Faculty at the University of Jordan which was established in 1973 will introduce a programme for a bachelors degree in midwifery to chart national policies on training nurses and employing them in hospitals and other centres. Dr. Abdul Rahim, the faculty dean.

Midwifery is a vital profession for the whole community and the new plans are aimed at promoting the profession to cope with modern developments and to provide Jordan with qualified midwives, said Dr. Abdul Rahim.

The Faculty of Medicine is now holding contacts to ensure financing for the project, whose plans have already been drawn up, and efforts are being made to ensure sufficient staff for the new programme, she added.

According to Dr. Abdul Rahim, her faculty is divided into three sections: clinical nursing, mother and childcare nursing and community nursing. Graduates of any of these programmes are awarded bachelor degrees, she said.

With reference to the graduates with bachelor degrees, Dr. Abdul Rahim complained that although all graduates find work, hospitals of the private or the public sectors tend to treat these graduates on the same level with those who carry diplomas in nursing.

Health Ministry sources had reported that some 500 non-Jordanian nurses are still employed in Jordan's private and public sectors hospitals.

Currently, the Faculty of Nurs-



HRH Princess Basma

Amman-Zarqa railway proposal studied

By Maha Addasi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The primary stages of a study to reactivate the use of the railway between Amman and Zarqa have been finalised, according to the Director of Railways Transportation Yahya Jdeitawi.

Interior Minister Jawdat Al Shboul recently recommended this idea to the government as a method to reduce traffic accidents and pollution caused by traffic, Mr. Jdeitawi, who is also an engineer, said.

The two sides discussed Middle East issues as well as relevant issues connected with demography, water, armament and energy. Prince Hassan reviewed with Mr. Ganev scopes of Bulgarian-Jordanian cooperation and presented the Jordanian stand with regard to the ongoing peace process.

He added that with the increase in traffic problems, the time seems appropriate to look into this idea once again.

According to a source at the Ministry of Interior, an initial and brief primary study was proposed to the prime minister regarding this subject.

If the initial plan is approved, it will be referred to the Ministry of Transport, after which a detailed study of the railway path will be undertaken. Topography and soil analyses will also be made," Mr. Jdeitawi said.

According to Mr. Jdeitawi, if the idea is approved, it is planned that railways with standard gauges of international standards will be built.

This new line should pass in the same areas that the Hijazi railway passes, but it will be built to avoid the sharp curves that are responsible for slower train speeds," Mr. Jdeitawi said.

Dr. Abdul Rahim also pointed out that the current nursing programmes introduced by the Ministry of Education in 1974 are no longer capable of coping with the needs of the present and cannot be considered as a real profession.

She said that only through university level education can nursing be considered as a profession. For this reason, she said, Muta University and the Jordan University of Science and Technology are following the University of Jordan's example by establishing nursing faculties to award bachelor degrees.

Apart from the University of Jordan, several nursing colleges exist in the Kingdom. These colleges, which are run by the government, are the Jordan College of Nursing in Amman, the Irbid College of Nursing and Midwifery, and Zarqa College of Nursing and Midwifery, she said.

Health Ministry sources had reported that some 500 non-Jordanian nurses are still employed in Jordan's private and public sectors hospitals.

Currently, the Faculty of Nurs-

Crown Prince reviews relations, peace process with Bulgarian official



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan meets with visiting Bulgarian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Stoian Ganev (Petra photo)

and vegetables so as to adjust the balance of trade between the two countries.

In reference to the current Middle East situation, Mr. Lawzi spoke in detail about the Gulf crisis, its consequences and the Palestine issue as well as Jordan's burdens resulting from these issues. Mr. Lawzi also spoke about the plight of the Palestinian people and Israel's repressive measure. He welcomed Bulgaria's offer to host the multilateral peace talks with Israel.

Mr. Ganev and Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensour earlier held formal talks on means of increasing the volume of trade and bolstering economic relations between the two countries.

Dr. Ensour stressed the need for the implementation of joint Bulgarian-Jordanian agreements, which called for increased trade of diversified products and the utilisation of the free zones in Jordan which offer privileges for investors. He called for a meeting as soon as possible for a joint committee to carry out these agreements.

Mr. Ganev also invited Bulgaria to join Jordan in carrying out joint ventures to produce commodities in demand by the countries and others. He called for the establishment of trade centres in Sofia and Jordan to promote the sale of Jordanian and Bulgarian products.

The minister voiced Jordan's readiness to reach new agreements with Bulgaria to organise bank settlements for trade exchanges and called on Bulgarian investors to benefit from the numerous incentives offered them in the Jordanian market.

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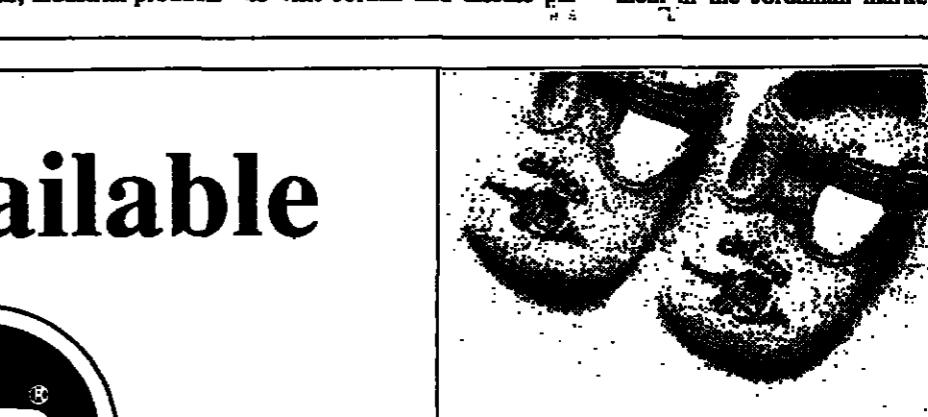
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- Al Farid Trading Est. - Tel: 698058/698059 • Al Wahis Stores - Tel: 814129
- Modern Pharmacy / Ibd - Tel: 242308
- Al Kheir Wal Salamah Pharmacy / Zarqa - Tel: 892442

Dutch, former Soviets advance in Hopman Cup

PERTH (AP) — Power-servers Richard Krajicek and Brenda Schultz lifted the Netherlands to a 3-0 victory over Australia Saturday in the first round of the Hopman Cup exhibition team tennis tournament.

Schultz beat Australia's top woman player Rachel McQuillan 6-7, (5-7), 6-3, 6-2 in the opening women's singles and Krajicek then crushed Todd Woodbridge 6-0, 6-3 in the men's singles.

Schultz and Krajicek defeated the Australian duo 8-4 in the mixed doubles, which was reduced to one pro set. The Netherlands now faces second-seeded Spain.

Natalia Zvereva and Andrei Cherkasov, who formerly represented the Soviet Union but are listed as representing the Commonwealth of Independent States, also advanced to the quarterfinals.

Zvereva and Cherkasov took a winning 2-0 lead over Britain to clinch a meeting Sunday with the fourth-seeded Swiss team of Jakob Hlasek and Manuela Maleeva-Fagniere.

Zvereva defeated Jo Durie 4-6,

6-0, 6-4, while Cherkasov defeated Jeremy Bates 6-3, 4-6, 6-1.

Germany, which will be represented by Boris Becker and Steffi Graf, is the top seed for the cup, which is decided by women's singles, men's singles and mixed doubles matches.

Other top pairings include the brother and sister Spanish team of Emilio Sanchez and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and the third-seeded American combination of Derrick Rostagno and Amy Fraizer.

The top four teams all had first round byes.

The winning combination in the exhibition will share \$10,000. The runners-up will share \$62,500.

The tournament will continue through Jan. 3 and is one of a number of warm-up events for the Australian Open, which will be played Jan. 13-26 at the National Tennis Centre in Melbourne.

Earlier, Karel Novacek and Helena Sukova combined for a mixed-doubles victory Friday night and lifted Czechoslovakia to a 2-1 win over Japan in the first

round of the Hopman Cup. Novacek and Sukova beat Japanese Yashifumi Yamamoto and Kimiko Date 6-2, 6-4. After the teams were level 1-1 after the singles matches at the Perth Superdome.

Date gave Japan a 1-0 lead by defeating Sukova 6-3, 2-6, 7-5 in the opening women's singles.

The Japanese player occasionally switched the racket to her left hand and her ambidextrous play clearly rattled her older, more powerful opponent.

Date, 21, saved a match point at 4-5 in the final set, but held serve, broke Sukova in the next game and then served out for the match.

Yamamoto, who is rated 824th in the world to his opponent's eighth, gave Novacek a tough fight before losing the men's singles, 6-2, 6-7 (8-10), 6-3.

The Czech player lost his temper in the second set when he squandered three match points in the tiebreak, but regained his composure in the decisive set, rallying from 1-3 to win five straight games.

2 killed in Libyan stage of African rally

SABAH, Libya (AP) — The driver and passenger of a support vehicle in the Paris-Cape Town Rally were killed when their Range Rover flipped over in the desert of southern Libya, race officials said.

Laurent Le Bourgeois, 29, and 47-year-old Jean-Marie Sounillac died instantly, a rally spokesman said.

The accident occurred about 260 metres from the finish line of the rally's second stage, a 421-kilometre desert stretch between Sirta and Sabah.

In addition to the run between the two Libyan towns, Friday's race also included a special 375-kilometre segment, and a 46-kilometre liaison.

The support vehicle was to provide mechanical and logistical service to the Ducs de Bourgogne, a team made up of three cars in the three-week race that winds 12,427 kilometre from Paris to Cape Town, South Africa.

The race, which began on Dec. 23, passes through 10 African nations before ending Jan. 16.

It was not known what caused the Range Rover to lose control.

"We don't understand what happened," said Gerard Bourgoin, director of the Ducs de Bourgogne team. "The race was finished, the route harmless, extremely flat with only a few small bumps."

The accident brings to 28 the number of people killed in the rally since it began in 1979 as the Paris-Dakar Rally. Last year, the driver of a support truck was shot and killed by an unknown gunman in a village in Mali.

Competitors this year include 332 motorcycles, cars and tractor-trailer trucks. In addition, dozens of support vehicles serving the rally organisation and individual teams, medical vehicles and cars carrying journalists accompany the participants.

Spanish driver Salva Servia and co-driver Jose Puig in a Lada led the car division overall standings with a time of six hours, four minutes, 35 seconds.

Bjorn Waldegard of Sweden and Frank Gallagher of Great Britain driving a Citroen sport won the second stage of the race with a time of 3:29:32.

Italian Alessandro de Petri on a Yamaha led the motorcycles across the second-stage finish line with a time of 4:12:40. De Petri also leads the overall motorcycle division with a time of 7:03:03.

The rally arrived in Libya on Dec. 26 after crossing the Mediterranean from Sete, France. It continued south Saturday to the Libyan oasis of Was Al Kbir.

Fan who threatened skating star arrested

LOS ANGELES (R) — A man who police say sent threatening and obscene letters to Olympic ice skating champion Katarina Witt and stalked her in Germany was in jail Friday as the skater prepared to appear at a Los Angeles arena.

A Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) spokesman said the arrest of 47-year-old Harry Veltman was timed to ensure he could not harm Witt when she appeared in a skating exhibition at the Great Western Forum Friday night.

"We didn't want him on the street. He was a significant threat. Obviously, he was obsessed with this lady," FBI agent James Donckels said.

After his arrest Thursday Veltman appeared in court in Los Angeles and was ordered held without bail on three charges of threatening Witt and sending her obscene letters through the mail.

At his hearing, Veltman said he would never harm Witt and only wanted her "to love me and marry me."

According to court papers Veltman sent more than 60 obscene letters to Witt at her home in Germany during 1990 and 1991, some of which included nude photographs of himself.

In one letter, allegedly written in November 1990, Veltman told the court Veltman had a history of psychological problems.

Witt, who won two Olympic gold medals in the 1980s, is now a professional ice skater.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

McColgan ends year on winning note

BEAMISH, England (R) — Britain's world 10,000 metres champion Liz McColgan sealed her momentous year with a crushing victory in a tough cross country race Saturday. The Scot, who also won the New York Marathon last month, took the County Durham International ahead of Susan Sirma of Kenya and Russian Olga Bondarenko. McColgan completed the 5,000-metre course in 18 minutes 24 seconds, 15 seconds ahead of Sirma with Olympic Champion Bondarenko a further four seconds behind. "It was much easier than I thought — I had harder sessions on the treadmill back home this week," McColgan, who has become a national sporting heroine this year, said. The win gives the 27-year-old Scot a psychological boost as she goes to Florida in the New Year to prepare for the Barcelona Olympics in the summer where Sirma, Bondarenko and another Russian, European 10,000 metres champion Yelena Romanova who was seventh, are expected to be among her chief rivals.

Kasparov begins tournament with win

REGGIO EMILIA, Italy (R) — World champion Gary Kasparov began the highest-ranked tournament in chess history with victory over Mikhail Gurevich Friday night. The two met in the opening round of the first 18th category international tournament ever staged. Kasparov, with black pieces, beat Gurevich after 54 moves of the English opening.

Olympiakos ordered to settle debts

PIRAEUS (R) — A Pireaus court Friday ordered top Greek soccer club Olympiakos to settle a \$7.5 million debt with Dynamo Kiev for the transfer of Ukrainians Oleg Protasov and Gennady Litovchenko. The court ruled in favour of Dynamo, who had requested the confiscation of Olympiakos property and future earnings up to a value of \$7.5 million. Olympiakos, who signed the Soviet internationals last year, claim they owe Dynamo \$6.5 million and are in arrears by only one \$1.5 million instalment. The club's financial troubles came to light last week when the two Ukrainians and Olympiakos' Russian Yuri Savichev sued club President Argyris Saliarellis over a cash dispute.

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1991

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY DECEMBER 29, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Going shopping and doing errands will claim a lot of your time and attention today and since there are no exact aspects you may be able to accomplish many things that are on your to do list.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You want to dash off hither and thither just because you do not have the conditions exactly as you wish about you but it helps not at all and you are in a bad position.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You think you do not have enough of this world's goods and at the same time you feel you want to spend in order to gain peace of mind which is not good now.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You think you can get out in the world and frivot and have a good time with friends but they have their own activities and you can be disappointed.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 22) You now are in the mood to lash out at a fellow associate and to make him feel you do not approve of him when actually you are merely trying to get conditions better.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You are eager to have a good time and you think you can wheedle persons you like into going along with you but they have their own ideas.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Whatever you have in mind that requires more caution and understanding where your family is concerned is excellent to be kind and considerate.

sions in the outside world for you could damage your good name with a powerful person.

LIRRA: (September 23 to October 22) You have many new ideas and you want to put them in motion without proper thought and preparation which would be most unsatisfactory.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) This is the day for you to listen to that still small voice within instead of making demands on others or feeling you are pressured by some outside force.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) This is your day to make a point to avoid that pending disagreement with an associate and you should sidestep any moot questions that arise.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 22) You now are in the mood to lash out at a fellow associate and to make him feel you do not approve of him when actually you are merely trying to get conditions better.

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THE BETTER HALF

By Harris

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HARRIS

JUMBLE

THAT SCRABLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GYDUP

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GYDUP

BASUQ

© 1991 Charles Syndicate Inc.

BASUQ

SUTTOM

© 1991 Charles Syndicate Inc.

SUTTOM

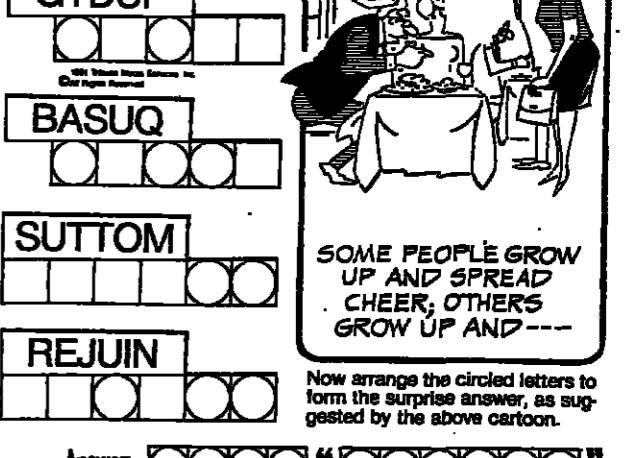
REJUIN

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REJUIN

SOME PEOPLE GROW UP AND SPREAD CHEER, OTHERS GROW UP AND ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: 

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles:

DEMON BAKED WALNUT POROUS

Answer: When you try to "exchange" ideas with a fool, you'll surely get this —

THE WORST OF THE DEAL

THE Daily Crossword

by J. Miller

ACROSS

1 Soprano

5 John

14 Anna

15 Sign up, ver.

16 Litter's little

17 Comet feature

18 Disney classic

20 Dismounted

21 Where the Atlas Mountains rise

22 Height

24 Diner sign

26 Light color

31 Beehive for one

32 First name in

36 Swashbuckling

38 Vapor

39 Eager

41 Cut

43 Bigfoot kin

46 Ma Home's namesakes

48 Dogdo doc

51 Latentistic

53 In attention

55 Brake part

56 Arab land

60 Talk idly

64 Hit on the head

67 Incline in a way

68 "The King —"

69 Walking stick

70 Plot of

71 Chow chow

72 Lab burners

French unemployment climbs to 9.8 per cent

PARIS (AP) — Unemployment in France climbed to 9.8 per cent of the workforce in November, to 2,852,600 people, the labour ministry has reported.

The number of job-seekers rose by 29,500 from a 9.7 per cent overall unemployment rate in October, the ministry announced in a communiqué.

The ministry said that the rise reflected an increase in the number of people applying for unemployment benefits, as well as a steady stream of layoffs.

The figures followed Economics Minister Beregovoy's predictions that government measures to ease unemployment are unlikely to show results until mid-1992.

The jobless rate is expected to be a key factor in regional elections scheduled for March. Polls show President François Mitterrand's governing Socialist Party badly trailing conservative and centrist opposition groups.

Financial Markets		Jordan Times			
In co-operation with		Cairo Amman Bank			
U.S. Dollar in International Markets					
Currency		New York Close	New York Close		
	Date: 26/12/1991	Date: 27/12/1991			
Sterling Pound	1.6535	1.5742			
Deutsche Mark	1.5080	1.5166			
Swiss Franc	1.5445	1.3516			
French Franc	5.1560	5.1905			
Japanese Yen	126.45	125.90			
European Currency Unit	1.3468 **	1.3345			
** USD for STG					
** European Opening at 8:00 a.m. GMT					
Eurocurrency Interest Rates					
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS	
U.S. Dollar	4.56	4.25	4.25	4.31	
Sterling Pound	10.81	10.85	10.85	10.81	
Deutsche Mark	9.81	9.68	9.62	9.43	
Swiss Franc	8.25	8.18	8.12	8.07	
French Franc	10.31	10.31	10.25	10.09	
Japanese Yen	6.75	5.90	5.71	5.40	
European Currency Unit	10.82	10.82	10.62	10.31	
Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.					
Precious Metals					
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	354.85	6.80	Silver	3.89	0.085
* 21 Karat					
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin					
Currency	Bid	Offer		Date: 28/12/1991	
U.S. Dollar	0.6740	0.6760			
Sterling Pound	1.2627	1.2690			
Deutsche Mark	0.4435	0.4457			
Swiss Franc	0.4963	0.5006			
French Franc	0.1296	0.1304			
Japanese Yen	0.5347	0.5374			
Dutch Guilder	0.3932	0.3952			
Swedish Krona	0.1213	0.1219			
Italian Lira	0.0554	0.0567			
Belgian Franc	0.02150	0.02161			
** 100					
Other Currencies					
Currency	Bid	Offer		Date: 28/12/1991	
Bahrain Dinar	1.7590	1.7620			
Lebanese Lira*	0.0766	0.0770			
Saudi Riyal	0.1794	0.1800			
Kuwaiti Dinar	—	—			
Qatari Riyal	0.1826	0.1835			
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2120			
Osmani Riyal	1.7250	1.7530			
UAE Dirham	0.1826	0.1835			
Greek Drachma	0.3725	0.3745			
Cypriot Pound	1.5345	1.5460			
** 100					
CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market					
Index	18/12/1991 Close	25/12/1991 Close			
All-Share	129.35	129.23			
Banking Sector	106.82	106.07			
Insurance Sector	128.35	128.97			
Industry Sector	163.13	163.47			
Services Sector	143.26	143.41			
December 31, 1990 = 100					



George Bush



Barbara Bush

Money reveals how little money Bushes paid in taxes

NEW YORK (R) — President George Bush has legally avoided paying most U.S. state or local income taxes since taking office by taking advantage of differing tax laws in the three places where he has resided, according to a magazine.

Money magazine said Mr. Bush and his wife Barbara paid \$3,596 in state taxes in 1990, less than one per cent of their gross income of \$452,732.

As a result, the Bushes were able to cut their total tax bill, including federal income taxes, social security and local property taxes, to about 29.5 per cent of their income, the magazine said. A typical U.S. family with income of \$52,011 paid 37.7 per cent of its income in taxes in 1990.

The Bushes live most of the year in either the White House or their holiday home in Kennebunkport, Maine, but their legal residence is a rented hotel suite in Texas, a state with no personal income tax.

Mr. Bush earned \$200,000 as president in 1990 and the rest of his income came from investments.

Taxpayers with an equivalent income in Washington would have paid \$30,000 in District of Columbia (D.C.) tax. Maine residents would have paid \$29,000, Money said.

The Bushes take advantage of a special exemption from D.C.'s income tax which frees 61,000 residents, including senators, congressmen and other politicians, from paying taxes there as long as they maintain a home elsewhere.

He legally skirts Maine's top tax rate by claiming a rented suite in the Houston Hotel in Texas as his permanent home. Since moving to the White House in 1989, Mr. Bush has spent 103 days in Kennebunkport and only

"With the cold war over, our military needs have changed," Mr. Bush told about 3,500 people at a community barbecue Friday night.

"We'll do everything that we possibly can to help Beeville make the tough transition into this post-cold war world that we're living in," the president said.

The navy installation accounts for 29 per cent of the work force in this town of about 16,000. Chase Field is one of 34 military installations targeted for closing by a bipartisan committee whose recommendations were approved by the president.

Many Beeville residents say they blame Washington politics, but not necessarily Mr. Bush, for closing this navy airfield here instead of another one elsewhere.

"I think they blame Congress," said Lori Manuel, who runs an office supply store that gets seven per cent of its monthly business from Chase Field. "Really, us local people think that possibly something better than the U.S. government will come in and supply new jobs."

The loan, which carries 4.5 per cent annual interest rate, would be repaid in 17 years after a five-year grace period.

The fund would also provide 11 million Kuwaiti dinars (\$38.6 million) to help Bahrain build a second causeway linking its capital, Manama, with Muharrraq, which is on a separate island.

It said the loan carried a 4.5 per cent annual interest and would be repaid in 16 years after a six-year grace period.

The statement said the loans will bring total finances provided by the Kuwait fund to Bahrain to 40 million Kuwaiti dinars (\$140 million) but did not specify over what period.

AFESD established an investment office in Bahrain in November 1990, three months after Iraqi forces invaded the northern Gulf emirate.

The loan, with maturities from one to five years, will go towards Hungarian purchases of Turkish consumer and investment goods and be disbursed by the Central Bank of Hungary.

14 in the Texas hotel. Texas law allows Mr. Bush to call the state home as long as he promises to return to live there eventually.

The White House released the first family's federal tax returns and other documents to the magazine but declined to discuss them. Analysts who examined the records concluded some of the \$3,596 in state taxes the Bushes did pay in 1990 went to Maine as non-resident income tax paid in proportion to the amount of time spent in the state in 1990.

"Economists can be wrong"

On the economic scene, Mr. Bush admitted Thursday his advisers were wrong to predict that the U.S. economy would recover from recession by now and promised to unveil proposals to stimulate economic growth soon.

Mr. Bush also said he was examining "entitlement" spending programmes — that include pensions and funds for the ill and poor — to see what could be done to stop them from growing by "leaps and bounds" and bloating government spending.

And he insisted he would not resort to protectionism despite recent American job losses and a large trade surplus with Japan, saying protectionism would be disastrous for the U.S. economy.

The president spoke at a news conference at which he introduced his choice for U.S. commerce secretary, businesswoman Barbara Hackman Franklin. If confirmed by the Senate she will replace Robert Mosbacher, who is leaving to become Mr. Bush's 1992 election campaign manager.

"What I've learned from this is that economists can be wrong," the president said when asked

why he continued to trust the advisers who told him the recession that began in summer 1990 would be "short and shallow."

The science of economics was "inexact at best," and the economy's recovery had been widely predicted three months ago, Mr. Bush said. He said he was not "recriminatory" about his advisers who had erred.

"You go back and look at not just my economic advisers, but the blue chip prognosticators, and I think many, including this non-economist you're talking to, have been wrong," Mr. Bush said.

The White House's chief economic guru, Council of Economic Advisors Chairman Michael Boskin, said in the summer that the U.S. economy had emerged from recession and would grow at 2.5 to three per cent in the second half of the year.

Other officials including Budget Director Richard Darman and Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady concurred in Mr. Boskin's predictions for moderate growth. Many Democrats accused them of "rosy scenarios" for which there was little basis in fact.

The economy grew just 1.8 per cent in the July-September period, well below the forecast.

Recently Mr. Boskin backtracked and said growth, if any, will be slight in the fourth quarter.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said last week that the economy was far from all practical purposes still in recession.

Mr. Bush, whose popularity ratings suffered along with the economy this autumn, said his state of the union speech in late January would contain "some suggestions that I have already made and some new suggestions on what to do in a stimulatory sense to the economy."

Mr. Bush did suggest that he

was considering cuts in the sensitive area of entitlement spending, which affects American workers' pensions and medical care for the poor and elderly.

"When you take a look at some of the entitlement programmes, there lies the real expansion of government spending. What can be done about them? We're talking about that right now," he said.

The president also said he intended to stick to at least part of a deal he made last year with Congress on deficit reduction by keeping "caps" on domestic discretionary spending such as money for education and roads.

Britain ranks biggest investor

In another area, President Bush reaffirmed his support for foreign investment in the United States and revealed that Britain, not Japan, was the biggest foreign investor here.

A statement issued by the White House press office said the book value of foreign direct investment in the United States was \$64 billion at the end of 1990.

Of this amount, Britain had the largest investment, with \$108 billion, followed by Japan with \$83 billion and the Netherlands with \$64 billion, the statement said.

Foreign direct investment represented five per cent of the value of U.S. business assets at the end of 1990, the statement said.

"As other nations around the globe join up in embracing the concept of free markets, it is important to reaffirm our commitment to an open investment policy," Mr. Bush said in the statement.

"Foreign investors should not be treated differently from domestic investors. This policy provides the means for economies to grow and to prosper," he said.

Mr. Bush did suggest that he

Kuwaiti fund lends Bahrain \$112 million

ATHENS (AP) — Parliament has narrowly approved Greece's 1992 budget, which foresees spending of 6.57 trillion drachmas (\$36.8 billion) and revenue of 5.47 trillion drachmas (\$30.7 billion).

The budget was approved by 152 votes in favour and 145 against.

All the favourable votes came from deputies belonging to the

ruling conservative New Democracy Party. With the exception of defence expenditures, 123 deputies from premier Andreas Papandreou's main opposition Panhellenic Socialist Movement voted against the austerity budget.

The remaining 21 parliamentarians from the Greek Communist Party and left coalition voted against the entire budget pack-

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